

Borough



Swindon

OF

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

AND THE

Isolation Hospital Annual Report

From the 1st April, 1942, to the 31st March, 1943.

By **LLYWELYN ROBERTS, M.D. (LOND.) D.P.H.**

**Report of the
Chief Sanitary Inspector**

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

**Annual Report
of the School Medical Officer**

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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	Page No.
Public Health Service.	
Ambulance facilities	6
Bacteriological examinations	6
Births and Deaths	1
Causes of Death	4
Diphtheria immunisation	5
Health Indices	2
Housing	5
Infectious disease	2
Scabies	5
Smallpox outbreak	2 & 3
Staff	1
Tuberculosis	5
Vital Statistics	1
Maternity and Child Welfare.	
Ante-natal and Post-natal Services	8
Child Life Protection	8
Dental Arrangements	8
Domiciliary midwifery	7
Health Visiting	8
Maternity Home	6 & 7
Orthopaedic treatment	9
Treatment Centres and Clinics	8
War-time Nurseries	9 & 10
Isolation Hospital Report	11 & 12
Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector	13—19
School Medical Service	21
Report of School Dental Surgeon	23
Dental Inspection and Treatment—Elementary Education	28
„ „ „ Higher Education	31
Summary of Results of Dental Inspection at Secondary Schools	32
Statistical Tables—Elementary Education	24, 25, 26 & 27
Higher Education	29 & 30
Commentary by Medical Officer of Health.	33



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BOROUGH OF SWINDON.

CIVIC OFFICES,
SWINDON.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health etc. Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present an interim Annual Report for the year, 1942. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this report is presented in an abridged form. The records which it has been the custom to provide are all kept and will be available for comparison in future and happier years.

Staff. Dr. S. Hall-Craggs, Temporary Assistant Medical Officer, terminated her duties on 23/1/42 and Dr. Audrey Driver commenced on 30/3/42. Dr. D. Longland served as an additional Temporary Assistant Medical Officer for a few weeks at the end of the year, owing to the illness of the Deputy Medical Officer—Dr. R. G. Smithson.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's estimate of population for 1942	.....	68950
Census 1931	.....	62401

Births and Deaths—

	Total		Rate	
	1942	1941	1942	1941
Live Births	1174	1107	17.03	15.75
Deaths	765	803	11.09	11.43
Maternal Deaths				
From Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	3	1	2.48	0.88
Infant deaths under 1 year	44	64	37.48	55.75
Deaths within 10 days of birth	23	26	—	—
Stillbirths	36	27	—	—
Deaths from diarrhoea in children				
under 2 years	1	4	—	—
Deaths from cancer	114	120	—	—
	1938	1939	1940	1941
No. of births	791	848	958	1107
Birth Rate	13.06	14.04	14.77	15.75
No. of births in Maternity Home	417	581	675	636
Death Rate	11.64	12.54	15.35	11.43
Infant Mortality Rate	54.36	38.42	61.43	55.75

HEALTH INDICES.

Physicians available per 10,000 population	....	....	3
Public Health nurses per 10,000 population	....	....	1
Percentage of infants under 1 year attending clinics	....	....	68%
Percentage of expectant mothers receiving pre-natal nursing care under Corporation scheme	....	....	44%
Diphtheria Immunisation.			
Percentage of children under 5 years immunised	....	....	35%
Percentage of immunisations performed on children 5-15	....	....	66%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

				No. of cases notified		No. of deaths	
				1942	1941	1942	1941
				—	—	—	—
Smallpox	....	....		3	—	—	—
Chickenpox	....	....		132	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	....	....		75	269	—	1
Diphtheria	....	....		25	105	—	6
Paratyphoid	....	....		—	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....		50	75	—	—
Pneumonia	....	....		77	111	21	22
Erysipelas	....	....		17	27	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	....		5	19	2	7
Polioymelitis	....	....		1	1	—	1
Polioencephalitis	....	....		2	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	....	....		2	—	1	—
Dysentery	....	....		4	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....		7	6	—	2
Measles	....	....		36	1027	—	2
Whooping Cough	....	....		79	330	1	3
				—	—	—	—
Totals	....	....		515	1975	25	44
				—	—	—	—

Two of the cases of diphtheria occurred in children who had been immunized. They were mild cases and, in fact, no deaths occurred from diphtheria during the year.

EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The most important epidemiological event of the year was a small outbreak of smallpox which was connected with the infected ship which produced the Glasgow cases.

A small child from the infected ship arrived in Swindon on the 1st June, 1942. His vaccination, performed on the 29th May, was

unsuccessful. He was kept under daily supervision and developed smallpox on the 12th June and the child was removed to hospital the same day (Case 1). A known contact of Case 1 developed very mild smallpox on the 26th June, despite successful vaccination which was performed on the 14th June (Case 2). On the 26th June a man, who lived in the same street as Case 1, but who, even after the most exhaustive investigations, did not show any contact with the first case, was found to be suffering from severe smallpox and the rash was well out (Case 3). This man had travelled about the town on the 24th June, visiting shops and other premises. He had also worked in a large factory up to the 21st June when he must have been well in the incubation period of the disease.

It would have been impossible to trace and supervise all the contacts of the man and so the following steps were taken:— (a) all known contacts, direct or indirect, were kept under supervision and vaccinated (b) mass vaccination was arranged and strongly advocated. All three patients recovered and no further cases due to the Swindon cases were found.

Altogether 27,946 persons were vaccinated and for a matter of about a month all the resources of the Public Health Department were used in this work. There was an epidemic of chickenpox in the town at this time and this disease was made notifiable.

There were three cases of encephalitis following vaccination— (1) a case of coma which improved completely (2) a case very like poliomyelitis which left the patient with much residual paralysis (3) another which simulated an attack of disseminate sclerosis.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1942.
(Registrar-General's Official Returns).

CAUSES.	Males.	Females	Total
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	2
Whooping Cough .....	....	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	21	8	29
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1	5
Syphilitic diseases	2	1	3
Influenza .....	....	2	2
Acute infantile encephalitis .....	....	1	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	6	....	6
Cancer of uterus .....	....	6	6
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	18	3	21
Cancer of breast .....	....	11	11
Cancer of all other sites....	44	26	70
Diabetes	6	4	10
Intracranial vascular lesions	38	43	81
Heart disease	111	101	212
Other diseases of circulatory system	11	16	27
Bronchitis	12	13	25
Pneumonia	11	10	21
Other respiratory diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	1	5
Diarrhoea under 2 years .....	....	1	1
Appendicitis	1	....	1
Other digestive diseases	6	12	18
Nephritis	19	10	29
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis .....	....	....	....
Other maternal causes .....	....	3	3
Premature birth	8	7	15
Congenital malformation. birth injury, infantile disease	8	3	11
Suicide	5	4	9
Road Traffic accidents	11	2	13
Other violent causes	19	22	41
All other causes ...	51	31	82
ALL CAUSES	420	345	765

Tuberculosis.

	1942	1941	1940	1939
No. of cases notified	84	96	79	73
Respiratory Tuberculosis	62	71	58	53
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	29	27	30	20
Deaths from Tuberculous Meningitis	4	9	2	2
Total Deaths	34	40	36	25
General death rate for all forms of Tuberculosis	0.49	0.57	0.56	0.41
Death rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.42	0.38	0.46	0.33

The Corporation of Swindon provides two beds at Winsley Sanatorium.

Housing.—The question of adequately housing the population causes much difficulty and although every effort was made to alleviate cases of overcrowding and to obtain necessary repairs one was conscious of the fact that the results did very little to solve the problem. Housing will be one of the great problems for the post-war period and planning to this end is urgently necessary.

Scabies.—The following number of cases were treated at the Faringdon Road Cleansing Station during the year 1942:—

Men	201
Women	374
Children	709
Total	1284

A full-time nurse was appointed to treat cases of scabies among women and children.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—This Clinic is held weekly and every effort is made by means of birthday letters, visits by Health Visitors to homes, pamphlets to parents when their children first attend school, to encourage immunisation at as early an age as possible.

An investigation into types of immunising agents was undertaken for the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service and this led to much testing before and after the injection. The high rate of positives is largely due to this routine testing.

Total number of attendances at the Immunisation Clinic during the year	4543
Total number of children completely immunised—	
(a) Under 5 years of age	561
(b) Over 5 years	132
Total number of Schick tests performed	1474
of whom 1131 were negative and 343 positive.	

Ambulance Facilities—for infectious disease, non-infectious and accident cases were maintained on a 24 hour service.

The following journeys were made by the ambulances—

	1942	1941	1940	1939
Transport of Infectious cases	195	419	870	285
Transport of Non-Infectious cases	1097	907	846	616
Transport of Bedding for Disinfection and Laundry Articles	1380	4072	1910	270
Civil Defence Ambulance Journeys for transport of Non-Infectious cases	332	293	—	—

The increase in the work done by the ambulances in the last two years is largely due to their being used for transporting bedding in cases of infectious diseases and scabies. Much assistance in this work was obtained from the Civil Defence personnel. The public are more and more requesting this treatment of their bedding when they are obliged to sleep in close proximity during fire-watching and similar duties.

Bacteriological examinations.—A pathological laboratory, the supervision of which devolves upon the Borough Council, was established by the Ministry of Health at the Isolation Hospital and commenced work on the 21st September, 1942. The Ministry of Health has recognised this as an Area Laboratory and the following hospitals have been grouped around it to send such specimens as they choose—St. Margaret's Hospital (E.M.S. cases only), Swindon and North Wilts Victoria Hospital and Annexe, G.W.R. Medical Fund Society Hospital and annexe. The laboratory is also used by the Isolation Hospital, the Maternity Home and private practitioners. From the date of opening until the end of the year 502 specimens were examined.

Prior to the opening of the pathological laboratory at the Isolation Hospital full use was made of the facilities at the E.M.S. Pathological laboratory, Oxford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Home.	Borough	County	Totals
No. of cases admitted during 1942	437	147	584
No. of cases delivered by—Midwives	290	108	398
Doctors	139	26	165
No. of cases in which no delivery took place	24	16	40

In 224 cases medical assistance was sought by midwives. 45 cases were notified as puerperal pyrexia and of these 26 were notifiable under the Puerperal Pyrexia Order.

Continued use was made of the Emergency Maternity Homes in the County because of the increasing number of mothers wishing or being obliged to have their confinements away from home.

30 women (26 evacuees and 4 Swindon residents) were sent to Woolley Grange Maternity Hostel, Bradford-on-Avon, and afterwards transferred to either Berryfield House, Bradford-on-Avon or the old Cottage Hospital, Melksham, by arrangement with the Wilts County Council

The increase in the population of the Town made it difficult to provide accommodation for all the applicants at the Maternity Home. Mothers from evacuation areas are always provided for by the E.M.S. homes in the County, but the problem of providing for mothers who have either come into the town as war workers, or the wives of war workers or Service-men and normal Swindon residents became increasingly difficult. It was therefore decided that for the duration of the emergency or for such shorter period as may be found practicable, the Maternity Home should be used primarily for those mothers who require special medical attention, or whose home conditions are unsuitable for the confinement, or who cannot provide proper care and attention for themselves during the post-natal period, and that mothers who can have their child at home be not admitted to the Maternity Home; mothers requiring to have their confinement in an Institution and who cannot be accommodated in the Swindon Maternity Home would be accommodated at one of the Emergency Maternity Homes in the County and the Corporation would be responsible for the transport of the mothers.

Apart from the increased demands for more maternity beds it also became necessary to readjust the staff and employ a larger number of trained staff.

Ten pupil midwives completed the second part of their training and entered for the Final Examination for the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Domiciliary Midwifery.—The Extern Midwifery Service attached to the Maternity Home, consisting of one Sister and an Assistant dealt with 289 cases and the four municipal midwives attended 281 deliveries.

The districts of the municipal midwives were re-allocated in an attempt to prevent delay in getting to the mothers during black-out conditions and in view of the difficulty of obtaining transport.

Miss D. Hancock, Matron, Maternity Home, resigned her appointment as temporary Supervisor of Midwives and Dr. Audrey Driver, temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health was appointed in her place, commencing duties as from 8th July, 1942.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.—Five ante-natal and one post-natal clinics are provided by the Council.

No. of women who attended		587 ante-natal clinic
		78 post-natal clinic

Total		665
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No. of attendances	at Asst M.O.H's. Clinic		735
" "	at G.W.R. Med. Fund Clinic		1631
" "	at Matron's Clinic		1254
" "	at Specialist's Clinic	....	910

Health Visiting.—During 1942, 12,073 visits were paid to mothers and children by the health visitors.

In the early part of the year it was felt that children between the ages of three and five were not being adequately dealt with in the Borough. In order to make definite provision for this age group an extra health visitor was appointed and on 20th April, 1942, Miss W. Parkins commenced duties as Health Visitor and School Nurse. Miss M. G. Burke, Health Visitor, resigned 27th February, 1942, and Miss D. E. Waite commenced duties 11th May, 1942.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—1664 separate infants attended the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. In co-operation with the Food Office Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices were distributed at the Centres. This figure shows a marked decrease compared with the numbers attending in 1941 and this despite the increased number of visits to the home by the health visitors. Some of this reduction is doubtless due to the fact that many mothers are working or are prevented by the increasing difficulties of looking after a home and are therefore unable to attend the clinics.

Child Life Protection—Public Health Act 1936.—8 boarded-out children were on the Register at the end of the year and 58 supervisory visits were made.

Dental Arrangements.—Arrangements have been made, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, for the dental treatment of expectant mothers and nursing mothers by the School Dental Surgeons.

Summary of work done during 1942.

No. of patients seen—Mothers	102
Children	103
Total	205
No. of visits paid by patients	614
No. of teeth extracted by General Anaesthetic	273
„ „ „ „ Local Anaesthetic	181
No. of artificial dentures fitted	29
„ „ „ „ repaired	4

Orthopaedic Treatment.—During the year 59 Swindon children (34 new cases) were referred from the Infant Welfare clinic and received treatment at the Orthopaedic clinic and 120 attendances were made.

CARE OF THE YOUNG CHILDREN OF WOMEN WAR WORKERS.

The pressing need for young women to enter industry led to steps being taken to care for their young children and mothers were urged to make private arrangements with friends or relatives for the care of their children. In cases where this was not possible the two following schemes were introduced :—

(1) **Registered Guardians.** Through the agency of the Maternity and Child Welfare authority mothers requiring guardians for their children while they are at work are introduced to women who will be prepared to undertake this work and the Government afford financial assistance. The scheme provided for the supervision of the foster parents or guardians by the M. and C.W. Committee. The arrangement commenced on 9th February, 1942, but the response was poor, nine women altogether made application to be registered as Daily Guardians and this number gradually dropped off until the end of the year only 2 names remained on the Register.

2. War-time Nurseries. Sanction was obtained for the establishment of four War-time Nurseries on the following sites :—Immanuel Church premises, Upham Road ; Broad Street ; The Circle, Pinehurst ; and Somerset Road.

Three Nurseries were opened during the year :—

Upham Road	4th May, 1942.
Broad Street	11th June, 1942.
Pinehurst	25th October, 1942.

Each nursery is in charge of a Matron, who is a trained nurse and the staff recruited from women who have had experience in the care of children. For this purpose a Child Care Reserve course

was arranged in conjunction with the Director of Education. 16 candidates commenced the course and 14 who completed the course took the examination. 3 failed and 11 were recommended for membership of the Child Care Reserve. The three nurseries have a total capacity for approximately 110 children and children are admitted from the age of 1 to 5 years. The nurseries are opened from 7 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. to cover the working hours of mothers. Meals are provided for the children and every effort is made to give them recreation in the open air and to inculcate sound habits into them. They are medically examined at regular intervals and they are all immunised against diphtheria.

LLYWELYN ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital year runs from the 1st April, 1942, to the 31st March, 1943. The number of new admissions during the year 1st April, 1942 to 31st March, 1943, was 250 against 419 and 900 in the two previous years. On the 1st April, 1942, there were 26 patients remaining in Hospital, so that altogether 276 cases were under treatment during the year. Of these, 247 cases were discharged cured, 8 died, 1 was transferred to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital and 20 remained in Hospital at the end of the year, 31st March, 1943.

The 250 cases admitted during the year were chargeable to the following local authorities :—

Public Health Acts.

Swindon Borough	....	....	....	124
Highworth Rural District	....	....	....	26
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District	....	....	....	23

Maternity and Child Welfare (Puerperal Pyrexia Cases).

Swindon Borough	....	....	....	15 mothers
				14 babies
Wilts County Council	....	....	....	4 mothers
				3 babies

8 cases were admitted from the following districts and will be chargeable to the Ministry of Health under the Evacuation Scheme.

Swindon Borough	....	....	....	4
Highworth Rural District	....	....	....	3
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District	....	....	....	1

33 military cases were admitted during the year.

The 276 cases arranged according to the final diagnosis :—

Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	14
Diphtheria and Mumps	....	....	....	....	1
Diphtheria carrier	....	....	....	....	1
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	106
Scarlet Fever and Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	1
Whooping Cough and Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	1
Measles and Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	1
Measles and Tonsillitis	....	....	....	....	1
Measles	....	....	....	....	4
Tonsillitis	....	....	....	....	20
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	10
Influenza	....	....	....	....	1
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	19
Babies with Mothers	....	....	....	....	19

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	....	....	3
Pemphigus Neonatorum	....	....	....	....	1
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	5
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	3
Chickenpox	....	....	....	....	7
Rubella	....	....	....	....	7
Mumps	....	....	....	....	15
Infective Jaundice	....	....	....	....	4
Vincent's Angina	....	....	....	....	1
Dermatitis	....	....	....	....	1
Dysentery	....	....	....	....	11
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	....	....	....	....	6
Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	2
Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	1
Observation for Typhoid	....	....	....	....	1
Encephalitis following Vaccination	....	....	....	....	2
Encephalitis and Myelitis post Vaccination	....	....	....	....	1
Encephalitis	....	....	....	....	1
Miliary Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	1
Laryngitis with obstruction	....	....	....	....	1

There were eight deaths during the hospital year and they are analysed as follows :—

Two from Puerperal causes—One Swindon mother who was transferred from the Swindon Maternity Home and died after four days in the hospital. One mother from Highworth Rural District died after one day in hospital from puerperal peritonitis.

Two from cerebro-spinal meningitis, both Swindon cases.

One boy sent in as a case of possible typhoid fever. He was a case of chronic colitis.

One child aged 2 years, from whooping cough and pneumonia, from Highworth Rural District.

One baby, aged 25 days, from pneumonia. Swindon case.

One baby, aged 8 months, from diphtheria. Admitted from the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District and died after two days stay in hospital.

LLYWELYN ROBERTS,

Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Etc. Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Seventeenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year ended December 31st, 1942.

Appended hereto will be found the tables giving full particulars of the inspections made during the year in conformity with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. Owing to war conditions, the remarks usually added have been dispensed with.

F. H. BEAVIS,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY STATISTICS, 1942.
TABLE OF NUISANCES RECORDED AND ABATED.

Nature of Complaint.	Not abated 1941	Visited during 1942	Total	Abated during 1942	Not abated at end of 1942
Choked drains	7	258	265	257	8
Defective drains	22	148	170	152	18
" traps	5	85	90	70	20
" sinks	30	42	72	54	18
" and dirty w.c.'s	15	114	129	114	15
" flushing-cisterns	35	93	128	104	24
" roofs	45	150	195	125	70
" eaves-gutters & rainwater pipes	38	106	144	103	41
" ceilings	41	85	126	82	44
" walls	68	161	229	125	104
Damp walls	46	85	131	82	49
Dirty rooms	132	284	416	296	120
Defective floors	54	292	346	230	116
" firegrates	24	56	80	58	22
" coppers	17	32	49	32	17
" yard paving	19	43	62	44	18
" forecourt paving	2	5	7	5	2
Offensive accumulations	4	73	77	73	4
" animals	1	12	13	11	2
Miscellaneous	188	583	771	591	180
TOTALS	793	2707	3500	2608	892

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS, 1942.

Work in course of construction	....	....	...	1276
Infectious disease	....	....	....	772
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	1517
Pig-killing on private premises	....	....	...	4
Butchers' shops	....	....	....	345
Markets	....	....	....	666
Bakehouses	....	....	....	127
Ice-cream shops	....	....	....	3
Cow-sheds, milkshops and dairies	....	....	....	536
Fishshops	....	....	....	450
Food shops	....	....	....	1101
Factories	....	....	....	228
Outworkers' premises	....	....	....	58
Common Lodging-house	....	....	....	20
Revisits	....	....	....	2112
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	2264
House-to-House inspections	....	....	....	—
Housing re-visits	....	....	....	—
Overcrowding Survey	....	....	....	137
TOTAL	....	....	....	11616

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	....	....	....	29
Nuisances Found and Abated	....	....	....	30

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	35
Farms	....	....	....	18
Milk Purveyors from outside the Borough	....	....	....	15
				68
Nuisances found and abated	....	....	....	98

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences in force within the Borough.

Designation.	Producers.	Bottlers.	Dealers.
Tuberculin Tested	2	1	7
Accredited	9	—	3

There are 4 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk, and 5 producers of Accredited milk from outside the Borough retailing milk within the Borough.

Designation.	Pasteurisers.	Dealers.
Pasteurised	2	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There are on the registers of the Department :—

Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	81
Premises registered for the sale, manufacture or storage of Ice-cream	78
Butchers' Shops	80
Wholesale Meat Stores	2
Fried Fish Shops	33
Other Food Shops	274

SAMPLES TAKEN.

Informal	57
Formal	50
Unsatisfactory	23

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during the year, together with the approximate average per week.

	Cattle		Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total.
	Cows	Other Cattle				
Total inspected	3304	1612	1659	970	12113	19658
Approximate average per week.	63	31	32	19	233	378

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1942.

	Cattle		Calves	Pigs	Sheep and lambs
	Cows	Other cattle			
Killed and inspected	3304	1612	1659	970	12113
DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	75	15	10	26	42
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	675	202	8	86	842
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22.7	13.46	1.09	11.55	7.29
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	123	23	1	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1049	211	4	108	—
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	35.47	14.51	.301	11.55	—

DISINFECTANTS.

Quantity given : Fluid 75 gals. 0 qt. 0 pt.
 Powder 3 qrs. 24 lbs.

DISINFECTION.

Cases of Cancer	....	....	....	....	9
„ Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	21
„ Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	55
„ Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	16
„ Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	—
Miscellaneous Cases	....	....	....	....	69
Verminous Rooms	....	....	....	....	287
Library Books disinfected	....	....	....	....	7
Lots of Bedding disinfected	....	....	....	....	312
Miscellaneous Articles disinfected	....	....	....	....	162
Lots of Bedding destroyed	....	....	....	....	44
Miscellaneous Articles destroyed	....	....	....	....	112
Animals destroyed	....	....	....	....	2

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

On Register	....	....	....	....	1
Number of persons for whom accommodation is provided :—Adults, 109 ; Children 8.					
Inspections	....	....	....	....	20

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The following is a table showing the work carried out by your officer under the above Act during the year under review :—

Rats Caught	Complaints Received	Due to Defects of Drains or Sewers.	Due to Structural Defects.
2,263	210	25	8

A very severe infestation of Rodents occurred at the Rodbourne Tip during the year, and owing to the shortage of labour it was impossible to keep the rodents under control. Consequently a firm of contractors was employed to carry out the wholesale destruction of these pests. This Work was carried out very efficiently, most of the rodents being exterminated.

DISINFECTION OF VEHICLES ETC. AT THE CATTLE MARKET.

<i>Number Disinfected.</i>	<i>Fees Received.</i>
	£ s. d.
864	21 12 0

HOUSING.

Houses Inspected	....	....	....	....	914
„ found to be defective	....	....	....	....	880
„ rendered fit by informal action	....	....	....	....	760
„ rendered fit by formal action	....	....	....	....	8
„ overcrowded	....	....	....	....	27
Persons affected	....	....	....	....	212
Overcrowding abated	....	....	....	....	5
Persons affected	....	....	....	....	36

BOROUGH OF SWINDON

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

(LLYWELYN ROBERTS, M.D. (LON'D.) D.P.H.)

For the Year 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the
Borough of Swindon.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children of Swindon for the Year 1942. The report is an abridged one and many of the Tables have been omitted. The statistics are however still kept and are available for future reference.

Staff Changes, etc., 1942.—Dr. S. Hall-Craggs, Temporary Assistant Medical Officer, relinquished her duties on January 23rd, and Dr. Audrey Driver commenced on 30th March.

Dr. D. Longland served as an additional Temporary Assistant Medical Officer for a few weeks at the end of the year, owing to the illness of the Deputy Medical Officer, Dr. R. G. Smithson.

Miss M. G. Burke, Health Visitor, resigned at the end of February, her place being filled by the appointment of Miss W. Parkins, who commenced in April.

An additional Health Visitor, making 7 in all, was appointed, and commenced in May.

Nutrition. There have been no notable changes in the nutrition or in the findings at routine medical inspections.

A small outbreak of smallpox occurred in 1942 and there was a heavy demand for vaccination so that personnel of the health centres were busily engaged in this work and the centre itself was not used for any other purpose for about six weeks. This resulted in a decrease of work performed in most branches of the service.

LLYWELYN ROBERTS,

School Medical Officer.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEON.
(W. KENYON BERRIE, L.D.S., F.R.P.S.G.)

All the schools (Elementary and Secondary) have been dentally inspected.

10,528 children were seen and 6,476 (61.5%) were referred for treatment.

4,475 were actually treated making 8,936 attendances.

All the Evacuees were seen and offered treatment where necessary.

492 children were referred for treatment ; 293 actually attended.

399 teeth were extracted and 244 fillings were inserted for this group.

5 Regulations were completed for Elementary school children by means of orthodontic appliances.

General or Local Anaesthetics were used for all extractions.

6,095 teeth were extracted, and 2,801 teeth were filled.

The work during the year was somewhat hampered by unforeseen circumstances. From January to June one Dental Officer's time was divided between the Eastcott Hill and Pinehurst Clinics, 5 sessions weekly were devoted to Pinehurst Clinic. Towards the end of June work had to be cancelled owing to an outbreak of Smallpox in the town. The entire Dental Staff assisted the Medical Department where required during this period. Mr. K. W. Massey, L.D.S., returned to take up his duties at Pinehurst in June. Since July all Clinics would have been on full time, but unfortunately owing to illness among the staff this has not been possible.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Return of Medical Inspections.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections :—

Entrants	....	....	958	<i>26</i>
Second Age Group	....	...	882	<i>47</i>
Third Age Group	....	....	646	<i>42</i>
			<u>2486</u>	<u><i>115</i></u>

Number of Other Routine Inspections Nil.

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections			8755	<i>640</i>
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NOTE—Figures in italics denote Evacuees—but are included in the first figure.

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the
Routine Age Groups.**

Age Groups	Number of Children Examin- ed.	A (Ex- cellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Sub- Normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	958	294	30.7	609	63.6	54	5.6	1	.1
	26	8	30.8	18	69.2	—	—	—	—
Second Age Group	882	226	25.6	600	68.	47	5.3	9	1.1
	47	12	25.6	33	70.2	1	2.1	1	2.1
Third Age Group	646	168	26.	422	65.3	51	7.9	5	.8
	42	12	28.6	25	59.5	4	9.5	1	2.4
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2486	688	27.7	1631	65.6	152	6.1	15	.6
	115	32	27.8	76	66.1	5	4.3	2	1.8

Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

BLIND CHILDREN.—There are 3 children at Certified Schools for the Blind, and one attending a Public Elementary School.

DEAF CHILDREN.—There is 1 child at a Certified School for the Deaf,

DIABETIC CHILDREN.—There is 1 child at a special school for Diabetics.

**MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.
FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.**

At Certified Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
19 3	9 1	3 —	— —	31 4

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS..

There is one child suffering from Blindness and Deafness who is accommodated at a Residential School.

One child was notified by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority,—an Imbecile—a Boy.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group IV).

3241 (246) children suffered from Minor Ailments or Defects and received treatment. The Defects are classified as follows :—

Diseases of the skin	....	1319	128
Minor Eye Defects	....	240	11
Minor Ear Defects	....	252	26
Miscellaneous	....	1430	81

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE	No. of Defects dealt with			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.		Otherwise	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	484	39	....	484 39
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I).	84	6	....	84 6
TOTAL	568	45	....	568 45

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	....	....	275	13
(b) Otherwise	....	....	....	....

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	....	....	257	10
(b) Otherwise	....	....	....	....

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment		Received other forms of Treatment.	Total Number Treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme.		
64 1	— —	134 7	198 8

Group IV.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	8.5
(ii)	Total Number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	26573
(iii)	Number of individual children found unclean	678
(iv)	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	11
(v)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil
	(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	Nil

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.**UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME.**

Residential treatment with education.	Residential treatment without education.	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic.	Total number treated.
9 1	— —	67 6	67 6

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE, THROAT AND EAR AT SPECIAL CLINIC.

Number of cases referred for treatment	200	11
Number of Consultations	311	37
Number of Attendances at Clinic	356	39
Number for whom operation for tonsils and adenoids was advised	47	2
Number who received operation for tonsils and adenoids	54	1
Number of other operations performed	10	—
Number of cases cured	114	7
Number of cases remaining under observation or treatment	83	6
Number of cases for whom no report is available	31	2

TREATMENT OF SCABIES AT THE CLEANSING STATION.

Number of Cases treated	599	30
Number of attendances	1225	102

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

47 children were examined prior to their appearance at the Juvenile Court.

SCHOOL ACCIDENTS.

There were 195 (8) cases, mostly of a minor character, making 479 (24) attendances at the Clinic.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THE SWINDON
SECONDARY SCHOOLS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Boys	....	....	....	....	....	502	161
Girls	....	....	....	....	....	507	10
Total	....	....	....	....	....	<u>1009</u>	<u>171</u>
Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections							
	....				....	992	165

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED.

Group I.—Minor Ailments.

220 39 children suffered from Minor Ailments or Defects and received treatment. The Defects are classified as follows :—

Diseases of the Skin	....	59	15
Minor Eye Defects	....	23	7
Minor Ear Defects	....	20	4
Miscellaneous	....	118	13

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE	No. of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.		Otherwise	Total
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	137	16	— —	137 16
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I).	13	—	— —	13 —
TOTAL	150	16	— —	150 16

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	....	....	....	93	13
(b) Otherwise	....	....	....	—	—

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	....	....	....	89	12
(b) Otherwise	....	....	....	—	—

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment	Total Number Treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme.		
— —	— —	8 —	8 —

Group IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

There were 26 (3) cases treated under the Authority's Scheme.

SCHOOL ACCIDENTS.

There were 46 (4) cases, mostly of a minor character, making 106 (6) attendances at the Clinic.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.
Higher Education.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :—

(a) Routine age-groups :

Age 12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
153	198	247	222	209	80	26	4	—
21	43	26	39	32	14	2	1	—

Total 1139 178

(b) Specials 8 1

(c) Total (Routine and Specials) 1147 179

(2) Number found to require treatment 611 107

(3) Number actually treated 485 86

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment 1295 193

(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection 8 —
Treatment 88 —

Total ... 96 —

(6) Fillings—Permanent Teeth 837 125
Temporary Teeth — —

Total ... 837 125

(7) Extractions—Permanent Teeth 197 27
Temporary Teeth 128 20

Total ... 325 47

(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for
extraction 151 19

(9) Other Operations—Permanent Teeth 104 13
Temporary Teeth 34 3

Total ... 138 16

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF DENTAL INSPECTION AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, YEAR 1942.

Secondary School.	ENTRANTS		RE-INSPECTIONS		Total Number Inspected	Total Number referred for treatment	Number free from caries
	Number Inspected	Number referred for treatment	Number Inspected	Number referred for treatment			
The College ...	32	22	273	127	305	149	156
Euclid Street ...	31	19	273	158	304	177	127
The Commonweal ...	25	7	327	171	352	178	174
East Ham Grammar ...	49	38	129	69	178	107	71
TOTALS ...	137	86	1002	525	1139	611	528

Percentage of Entrants requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	62.8%
Percentage of children Re-inspected requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.4%
Percentage of Total number of children inspected requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	53.6%

Commentary.

The health conditions of the town, especially in view of the fact that there is a World war, are satisfactory—the death rate is low and the infant death rate shows a welcome decline, nor has there been a high incidence of infectious diseases. The Report of the health of the School Child does not show any marked worsening in the nutrition of the schools. It is known, of course, that cases of venereal diseases have shown an increase and that the position regarding tuberculosis is not satisfactory.

One is led to try to account for this state of affairs and there are a number of possible factors---The introduction of the drugs of the sulphonamide group have undoubtedly saved many lives. The community is harder worked but this does not appear to have had any deleterious effect upon our mortality rates and it is a fact which merits consideration in the future. When the war is over and conditions approach normality and there is more leisure it should be remembered that leisure should be properly used and should not mean idleness—recreation, particularly in the open air should be planned and should be available in its different forms to the community. In my opinion, however, the most important cause of our present well-being may be the more even distribution of food—on our present rations there cannot be any gluttony and there is no real want. There is not much variety but there is no indulgence—hard work and plain food are important causes of our satisfactory state of health.

To the nation at large probably the most significant fact emerging from the statistics both local and national is the increasing birth rate. Swindon has not enjoyed such a high birth rate since 1926 and one is again led to wonder why in the midst of catastrophe young people should be keener to guarantee the future of a race. It is surely because they are expressing consciously or subconsciously a hope of a better world and a faith in being able to bring it about. "Where there is no Vision the people perish"—We have a responsibility to provide the best for the young parents and their children, for it has been truly stated that "the final test of any civilisation is what type of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers does it turn out?" Besides the austere simplicity of such a question every other achievement of civilisation, art, philosophy, literature and material living fades into insignificance."

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LLYWELYN ROBERTS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer,
Medical Superintendent Isolation
Hospital and Maternity Home.*

Public Health Department,
Civic Offices, SWINDON.

